

FROM MISSOURI.

Rebel Ideas about the State—A New Design—Small Skirmishes—The Draft and Rebel Threats—Border State Freedoms Convention, etc.

From Our Special Correspondent.

St. Louis, Feb. 13, 1864.

A thousand times we have thought that the war was over, so far as Missouri is concerned; that there was no longer any military situation to describe from week to week. The Rebels have been forced to retreat with their arms so far into Arkansas that it is absurd to suppose they can ever again seriously interfere with the authority of the Union Government in this State without a long campaign and a successful assault on our forces in Arkansas. But the Rebels are made of different stuff from ourselves, and hence become so habitual to hoping against all reason that they pride continually about the recovery of the State.

The news that Tyler, with the rebels under Calhoun, Marmaduke, Standiford, and others in Rebel authority, has laid out a plan for a campaign for the recovery of Little Rock and Fort Smith first, and then an advance into Missouri, all of which seems preposterous enough, but in reality is no more than the usual confidence of the Rebels. For this expedition arms have been crossing the Mississippi for several weeks, and it was to an early Rebel force west of the river that the rebels sent to make ready. Mississippian above and below Vicksburg for many weeks past. They now claim that 10,000 rifles and 30,000 men, with a vast store of ammunition, have been sent to Price and Kirby Smith, and that Sherman will soon have to retreat his steps from the interior of Mississippi and Alabama to protect Missouri and Arkansas.

Active operations in the interior have been confined for some time past to scouting and skirmishing for supplies and contraband of all kinds. Last week a detachment of 1,000 Missouri State Militia, under command of Capt. Girardson, snuck out a guerrilla gang commanded by one John E. Bellin, most of whom they captured. Bellin was taken to Cape Girardeau and recognized as the leader of a gang who massacred a party of unarmed Southerners last Spring. This identification disengaged the citizens so much that, with the aid of some discharged soldiers belonging to the place, they forcibly took Bellin from jail and hung him. The work was done before the commander of the post knew what the crowd was doing. And the gang, in company with the 1st Kansas Cavalry, who had camped thirty-five miles west of Cape Girardeau, were captured, and although only twenty in number, the Kansas boys dashed into the Rebel camp and killed six and took six prisoners, the balance taking to the hills and escaping in darkness. There was evidence found in this camp that Confederate agents are abroad in Missouri in spite of our vigilance.

There is considerable anxiety in North Missouri from fear that there will be another outbreak of rebellion in the Spring. Opposition has been strong to the rebels, and caused by the Rebels to proceed with the raid on the 1st of March. A large number of Rebel sympathizers are subject to the draft, and they are trembling in their shoes lest they are drafted—too cowardly to go South and join the Rebel armies, they are still less willing to go into the Union ranks. The talk of guerrillas suggests that they may propose to steal enough to supply themselves, and the communication of a sum of hundred dollars, or even enough to buy a carbine. The reorganization of the State militia on a local basis is imperatively demanded by the dangers which will hang over this State while Rebels are allowed to live within its borders ever ready for mischief.

Political news is almost as scarce as military. A large meeting of citizens took place on the 1st inst., to appoint delegates to the Border State Freedoms Convention, to be held at the end of the 2d. Two delegations were appointed, and the street harmonies raised through the proceedings. Major David Marphy, one of the delegates, stated that he had, but lately returned from a visit to Louisville, and had heard that there would be great opposition to the holding of the Convention in Kentucky. The Copperhead press are trying to manufacture capital out of his advice to delegates to go to Louisville. The news was unimportant, and the country harmonies. The news was particularly interesting anybody into silence by cracking over the lab of a slave-driver has passed. Missouri emancipationists have too long been used to hearing the bon in his nose to mind the frothings of the Louisville Journal now, even if backed by Kentucky rowdies.

The Legislature adjourned to enter into resolutions respecting the President's Address, and to nominate Abraham Lincoln for a second term. Both resolutions were laid on the table by small majorities. I have the honor to do, with great respect, your obedient servant,

A. E. FAYRE, Capt. and A. D. C., Fortress Mount.

Present Condition of Graytown Harbor.

For the N. Y. Tribune.

The entrance to the harbor of Graytown when it was surveyed in 1850, by Col. O. W. Eliot, showed a depth of 25 feet, and also an area within the harbor of 200 acres, with a minimum depth of 12 feet.

The old Canal Company in 1831 located their buildings on the sand spit which formed the outer rim of the harbor to the sea.

The river San Juan discharges itself into the great basin of Graytown harbor by three mouths, or channels, called the North, Middle and South Channels.

The South Channel was the principal branch, and the effect of their steamer passing up and down that branch was to deepen it considerably. The two other channels were gradually filled up, and the sand spit, so choked up by weeds and drift, was nearly as level as the land.

The company, having its workshop and headquarters on the sand spit which skirted the harbor to the north east, found it more convenient to use the North Channel, and the effect of their steamer passing up and down that branch was to deepen it considerably. The two other channels were gradually filled up, and the sand spit, so choked up by weeds and drift, was nearly as level as the land.

One of the reasons which induced that action was the desire to avoid a tedious debate, which would interfere with the expected early adjournment of both Houses.

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